THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Friday, the 23rd December 1949.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. SRI R. B. RAMAKRISHNA RAJU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Non-availability of Court-Fee Stamps of some small denominations in Bellary.

* 70-A *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a complete report about the information asked for in Short Notice Question No. 20 (A) on the 17th November 1949 and if so, what the facts are which led to the inconvenience referred to therein;

(*b*) whether the Government have issued any instructions to obviate such inconvenience in future and if so, what the details of those instructions are;

(*c*) whether the Government have issued instructions to the stamp vendors to issue single copy stamps to the persons requiring the same; and

(*d*) if the Government consider the issue of single copy stamps uneconomical, whether they have issued instructions to the copyist departments to make copies on blank papers instead of on single copy stamps and affix 5 annas court-fee stamps thereto?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—" (*a*) The Government have since received a report from the Collector. Owing to the unusually heavy sales of stamps during October last, stocks ran short.

" (*b*) Government have since issued necessary instructions to all Collectors to the effect that Treasury Deputy Collectors should see that ex-officio vendors have always a sufficient stock of stamps and that indents for fresh supply are regularly submitted by them.

" (*c*) Stamp vendors are not prohibited from issuing single copy stamps.

" (*d*) The Government do not consider that any such instructions are necessary. If court-fee stamp is affixed also on the reverse side of the copy stamp paper and if that page is not used, the stamp will not be punched but will be returned to the parties concerned."

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SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Board of Revenue has issued instructions to Collectors that only double copy stamps should be issued and not single copy stamps?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"In answer to clause (c) I said that stamp vendors were not prohibited from issuing single copy stamps. I do not know about the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue. If they are illegal or cause inconvenience, I shall have them cancelled."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"The Collector of Bellary has written to me to say that the Board of Revenue has issued instructions that only double copy stamps should be issued and not single copy stamps and that he is following those instructions."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I shall take up the matter with the Board of Revenue."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"When stamps are affixed on both sides, is it not difficult to remove the stamp affixed on the reverse side when the front page has been written up?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I believe this practice is being followed to economize paper."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"I request the Hon. Minister to issue instructions that single copy stamps may be issued at least in limited number whenever they are required?"

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"I have already replied that stamp vendors are not prohibited from issuing single copy stamps."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO:—"But still they are issuing only double copy stamps and not single copy stamps. That is why I am making the request."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI:—"The matter will be considered."

Grant of certified copies by the Revenue authorities in Bellary.

* 70-B *Q.*—SRI B. BHIMA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have got the information asked for in Short Notice Question No. 20 (B) on the 17th November 1949 regarding the insistence of certificates from civil courts for the grant of certified copies by the Revenue authorities in Bellary district, and if so, what the facts are;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that such a practice does not obtain in the other districts of this Province; and

(*c*) whether the Government have issued instructions to the Subordinate officers of Bellary and other districts to grant copies of public documents without production of such certificates?